(19) World Intellectual Property Organization

International Bureau





(43) International Publication Date 3 February 2005 (03.02.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 2005/010157 A2

(51) International Patent Classification7:

C12N

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2004/022827

(22) International Filing Date: 15 July 2004 (15.07.2004)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data: 60/487,409

15 July 2003 (15.07.2003) US

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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM. ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: USE OF PLEIOTROPHIN IN THE DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF DISEASE

(57) Abstract: Described herein are methods for transdifferentiating monocytes/macrophages into endothelial cells, based on the inventors' identification of pleiotrophin ("PTN") as the gene responsible for this transdifferentiation. Further described are therapeutic methodologies for the promotion or inhibition of neovasculanization based on modulation of PTN.